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TO: UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

GROUP ART UNIT: 3624

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(including this cover): 3 which includes the following documents: Proposed Examiner Amendment

Proposed amendment is submitted in response to Examiner's telephonic request and is not in response to any objection, rejection, prior art (cited or un-cited), or any other conditions related to the patentability of the presently pending claims.


Signature

Thomas Saur, Reg. No. 45, 075
Typed or Printed Name of Attorney/Agent

Serial No.: 09/550,964

Examiner: Jagdish Patel

Attorney Docket No.: UOM 0182 PUS

Computerized

1. (currently amended) A method for conducting a progressive, price-driven, combinatorial auction of items, the method comprising:

* (a) receiving at a computer site bids for the items being auctioned from a plurality of bidders wherein each of the bids represents at least one bundle of items and at least one associated offer price;

(b) calculating an interim allocation of bundles to bidders that maximizes or approximates a total value of winning bids;

(c) calculating an interim winning price for each bundle in the interim allocation based on a k= bundle price algorithm which ensures that the bidders can determine whether they are winning the auction from the interim winning prices;

* (d) transmitting the interim allocation and the interim winning prices to the bidders;

* (e) receiving upwardly-revised bids from the bidders;

(f) calculating a revised, interim allocation of bundles to bidders and a revised, interim winning price for each bundle in the revised, interim allocation based on the revised bids;

* (g) transmitting the revised, interim allocation and the revised, interim winning prices to the bidders;

* (h) repeating steps (e) through (g) until a termination criterion is satisfied;
and

* (i) declaring the last revised, interim allocation and the last revised, interim winning prices as an auction result after termination of the bidding process, wherein steps (a), (d), (e) and (g) - (i) are performed over a network.

10. (currently amended) A computer system for conducting a progressive, price-driven, combinatorial auction of items, the computer system comprising:
a set of related documents and associated files; and

a server for serving up the set of related documents and associated files to a plurality of I/O devices to provide bidders with capability to participate in the auction, the server being programmed with application software to:

- (a) receive bids for the items being auctioned from a plurality of bidders wherein each of the bids represents at least one bundle of items and at least one associated offer price;
- (b) calculate an interim allocation of bundles to bidders that maximizes or approximates a total value of winning bids;
- (c) calculate an interim winning price for each bundle in the interim allocation based on a k-bundle price algorithm which ensures that the bidders can determine whether they are winning the auction from the interim winning prices;
- (d) transmit the interim allocation and the interim winning prices to the bidders;
- (e) receive upwardly-revised bids from the bidders;
- (f) calculate a revised, interim allocation of bundles to bidders and a revised, interim winning price for each bundle in the revised, interim allocation based on the revised bids;
- (g) transmit the revised, interim allocation and the revised, interim winning prices to the bidders;
- (h) repeat (e) through (g) until a termination criterion is satisfied; and
- (i) declare the last revised, interim allocation and the last revised, interim winning prices as an auction result after termination of the bidding process, wherein steps (a), (d), (e) and (g) - (i) are performed over a network.